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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/134,333	08/14/1998	SHIRLEY LONGACRE-ANDRE	0660-0135-0X	7863
22850	7590	12/19/2005	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			GRUN, JAMES LESLIE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1641

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 14 November 2005 is acknowledged and has been entered. Claims 134, 139-143, 145, 148-155, and 157-175 remain in the case.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 153, 159, 162, 165, 169, 172, and 175 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Longacre (Mol. Biochem. Parasitol. 74: 105-111, 1995) in view of Longacre et al. (Mol. Biochem. Parasitol. 64:191, 1994) for reasons of record.

Claims 134, 139-141, 143, 145, and 148-150 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Longacre in view of Longacre et al., and further in view of Holder et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,720,859) for reasons of record.

Applicant's arguments filed 14 November 2005 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive.

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Applicant urges that Longacre fails to teach the use of a fragment having the sequence from amino acid residues 276-380.

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Notwithstanding applicant's assertions to the contrary, the instant use of "consisting essentially of" claim language does not exclude a longer recombinant protein, as cloned in Longacre, that contains the relevant fragment as instantly claimed. Applicant has provided no description or evidence that inclusion of other residues of the longer sequence materially changes the character of the composition as both the shorter and longer sequences include the EGF-like domains notoriously well known to the art. Applicant urges that Longacre or Longacre et al. do not specifically teach *alum*. This is not found persuasive because the missing teaching is clearly provided by the combination of these references with the teachings of Holder et al.

Applicant urges that Longacre does not teach a construct containing the N-terminal signal sequence of *Plasmodium vivax* containing residues Met₁-Asp₃₂ therein. This is not found persuasive because the reference (see e.g. Fig. 1 legend in Longacre and the reference therein to Longacre et al.) clearly teaches that the *Plasmodium cynomolgi* sequence was cloned using the pVLSV₂₀₀ plasmid containing, in light of Longacre et al. (see e.g. page 192 and Fig. 2), the *P. vivax* signal sequence as instantly claimed.

Applicant urges that the combined teachings of the references do not suggest the use of a shorter sequence from amino acid residues 276-380, rather than the whole of residues 1-380, and that there is no motivation to combine the teachings of Longacre in view of Longacre et al., and further in view of Holder et al. These are not found persuasive for a number of reasons. Firstly, notwithstanding applicant's assertions to the contrary, for the reasons set forth above incorporated herein, the instant use of "consisting essentially of" claim language does not exclude a longer recombinant protein. Secondly, the arguments are not found persuasive because the examiner recognizes that references cannot be arbitrarily combined and that

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obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See: *In re Nomiya*, 184 USPQ 607 (CCPA 1975); *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); or, *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). However, there is no requirement that a motivation to make the modification be expressly articulated. The test for combining references is what the combination of disclosures taken as a whole would suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art. See: *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re McLaughlin*, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971). References are evaluated by what they suggest to one versed in the art, rather than by their specific disclosures. *In re Bozek*, 163 USPQ 545 (CCPA 1969). In this case, for the reasons of record, ample motivations have been set forth to clone and produce the C-terminal p42 and p19 fragments of MSP-1 proteins as notoriously old and well known vaccine candidates in the art as clearly taught by the references (see e.g. Longacre et al., page 192). Moreover, the examiner would further note the identification of the p42 and p19 cleavage sites in Fig. 1 of Longacre and the teaching in Longacre et al. to include 6 or 7 of the apparently well conserved residues upstream from the cleavage sites in p42 and p19 constructs (see e.g. page 194, col. 2). Such teachings would guide one to residues 276-380 of instant SEQ ID NO: 11, and of the sequence in Longacre, for the *P. cynomolgi* MSP-1 p19 construct. As set forth, Holder et al. teach the incorporation of MSP-1 peptides comprising the EGF domains in vaccine compositions comprising alum.

Applicant urges that the references do not specifically teach the atomic coordinates and fingerprints as claimed, do not teach a protective response using alum as adjuvant, and do not teach oligomers. These are not found persuasive because the fact that applicant has recognized another advantage which would flow naturally from following the suggestion of the prior art cannot be the basis for patentability when the differences would otherwise be obvious. See *Ex parte Obiaya*, 227 USPQ 58, 60 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985). As set forth, the C-terminal p42 and p19 fragments of MSP-1 proteins are notoriously old and well known vaccine candidates in the art as clearly taught by the references, and Holder et al. teach the incorporation of MSP-1 peptides comprising the EGF domains of the p19 fragment in vaccine compositions comprising alum. Applicant's arguments regarding the relative efficacy of various adjuvants were not found persuasive in view of the direct suggestion in the prior art to use alum as adjuvant for an MSP-1 fragment vaccine. Notwithstanding applicant's assertions to the contrary, variable levels of parasitemias in non-inbred hosts were not found persuasive or an unexpected result. Moreover, a recitation of intended use or an intended result is accorded patentable weight only to the extent that it limits the actual components of a composition; in the instant case the intended use does not affect the components in any way which distinguishes over the subject matter taught or suggested by the references. If the prior art composition is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. Notwithstanding applicant's assertions to the contrary, Longacre et al. teach the aggregation of recombinant p19 fragments (see e.g. page 199).

Claims 151, 152, 154, 155, 157, 158, 160, 161, 163, 164, 166, 167, 168, 170, 171, 173, and 174 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined

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teachings of Chappel et al (Mol. Biochem. Parasitol. 60:303, 1993), Miller et al (Mol. Biochem. Parasitol. 59:1, 1993), Longacre et al (Mol. Biochem. Parasitol. 64:191, 1994), and Longacre (Mol. Biochem. Parasitol. 74: 105-111, 1995) for reasons of record.

Claims 134, 139-143, 148, and 150 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chappel et al., Miller et al., Longacre, and Longacre et al., and further in view of Holder et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,720,859) for reasons of record.

Applicant's arguments filed 14 November 2005 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive. Applicant's arguments regarding the teachings of Longacre, Longacre et al., and Holder et al. have been addressed previously and are incorporated herein.

In response to applicant's arguments that there are no specific suggestions to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that references cannot be arbitrarily combined and that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See: *In re Nomiya*, 184 USPQ 607 (CCPA 1975); *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). However, there is no requirement that a motivation to make the modification be expressly articulated. The test for combining references is what the combination of disclosures taken as a whole would suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art. See: *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re McLaughlin*, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971). References are evaluated by what they suggest to one versed in the art, rather than by their specific disclosures. *In re Bozek*, 163 USPQ 545 (CCPA 1969). In this case, for the reasons of record,

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ample motivations have been set forth to clone and produce the C-terminal p42 and p19 fragments of MSP-1 proteins comprising the conformational epitopes of the EGF-like domains as notoriously old and well known vaccine candidates in the art as clearly taught by the references (see e.g.: Chappel et al.; Longacre et al., page 192; Holder et al.). As set forth, one would have had a reasonable expectation of the successful use of a plasmid containing the N-terminal signal sequence of *Plasmodium vivax*, containing residues Met₁-Asp₃₂ therein, to function in the cloning of a heterologous species MSP-1 fragment in view of its already successful use therefor as taught in Longacre in view of Longacre et al. As set forth, Holder et al. teach the incorporation of MSP-1 peptides comprising the EGF domains in vaccine compositions comprising alum.

Notwithstanding applicant's assertions to the contrary, as notoriously old and well known in the art as taught in the references and as set forth in the rejections of record, one would have expected fragments of various lengths comprising the conformational epitopes of the EGF-like domains to function in a vaccine. Moreover, the examiner would further note the identification of at least the p19 cleavage site in Miller et al. (see e.g. pages 6 and 10) and the teaching in Longacre et al. to include 6 or 7 of the apparently well conserved residues upstream from the cleavage sites in p42 and p19 constructs (see e.g. page 194, col. 2). Such teachings would guide one to appropriate residues for the *P. falciparum* MSP-1 p19 construct. Further, notwithstanding applicant's assertions to the contrary, the instant use of open claim language does not exclude a longer recombinant protein, as cloned in Chappel et al., that comprises the relevant fragment as instantly claimed.

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Applicant's arguments regarding immunological cross-reactivity of MSP-1 proteins of *Plasmodium vivax* and *Plasmodium falciparum* were of no moment with regard to the rejections of record. As set forth one would have expected immunological function of the EGF-like domains of the p19 fragment of *Plasmodium falciparum* isolates regardless of the signal sequence sequence. The rejections of record set forth substitution of a known signal sequence effective for secretion in a baculovirus construct, a sequence which is substantially cleaved from the final product, the p19 fragment of *Plasmodium falciparum* isolates.

No claim is allowed.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Holder et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,837,016) teach formulating vaccines containing MSP-1 proteins with alum as adjuvant (see e.g. col. 4).

Again, any of Murphy et al (Parasitology 100: 177-183, 1990), Chang et al. (J. Immunology 149: 548-555, 1992), Blackman et al. (FEMS Immunology and Medical Microbiology 6: 307-316, 1993), Egan et al. (Infection & Immunity 63(2): 456-466, Feb. 1995), Chang et al. (Infection & Immunity. 64(1): 253-261, Jan., 1996), Shi et al. (Infection and Immunity 64(7): 2716-2723, July 1996), or Egan et al. (Infection and Immunity 65(8): 3024-3031, August 1997) teach recombinant proteins comprising the sequence of the p19 fragment of the *P. falciparum* MSP-1 protein capable of expressing native conformational epitopes.

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All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the application prior to the entry of the submission under 37 CFR 1.114 and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the application prior to entry under 37 CFR 1.114. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action after the filing of a request for continued examination and the submission under 37 CFR 1.114. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST REPLY IS FILED WITHIN **TWO MONTHS** OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE **THREE-MONTH** SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY EXPIRE LATER THAN **SIX MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James L. Grun, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0821. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le, SPE, can be contacted at (571) 272-0823.

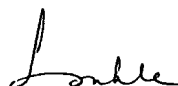
The phone number for official facsimile transmitted communications to TC 1600, Group 1640, is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application, or requests to supply missing elements from Office communications, should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



James L. Grun, Ph.D.
November 30, 2005



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12/02/05